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## Mahathir: The Edge owner attacked because he criticised 1MDB

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**KEPONG:** Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the online attacks against The Edge Group owner Datuk Tong Kooi Ong occurred because he is seen as a critic of iMalaysia Development Bhd (iMDB).

Some bloggers claimed that Tong had attempted to sabotage the country's economy through currency speculation.

However, Mahathir said the claim is yet to be verified.

"Investigate first whether it's true or not, he (Tong) owns The Edge which often criticises iMDB, as a result he is accused of betting against the ringgit

"Last time, our currency fell because of international currency traders. After that we can investigate whether he (Tong) has ties with (George) Soros," Mahathir told reporters after the plaque installation ceremony declaring the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (Frim) a National Heritage site, here yesterday.

Mahathir said Bank Negara Malaysia needs to study where the ringgit has been sold.

"Currency devaluation happens when there is a sudden and frequent selling of a currency, so we have to find out whether it is true that he (Tong) has sold the ringgit.

"This is all because he criticised iMDB. If he had not criticised iMDB, even if the currency falls, he (Tong) won't matter, but just don't criticise iMDB," Mahathir said.